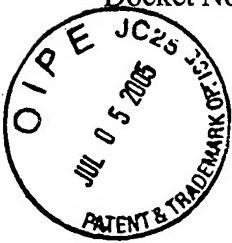


TPW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Hiroshi Fukuhara

Serial No.: 10/718,641 Group Art Unit: 1754

Filing Date: November 24, 2003 Examiner: Unknown

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING NITROGEN GAS

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

STATUS INQUIRY

Sir:

Please indicate the status of the above-identified application, including an indication as to when the first Office Action on the merits may be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. McGinn".

Sean M. McGinn
Registration No. 34,386

Date: 7/1/05
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